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means of illustration, as well as the whole history of the subject. This book is a distinct contribution to this most important question which is discussed, not only from the standpoint of the practical application of the subject, but the question is considered throughout by a careful, trained, scientific observer who does not forget at any point to bring out the basic principles underlying the subject. In this particular the book is in violent contrast with some other books on the same subject, prepared by those who have studied the subject only in an empirical way and who are totally disqualified to discuss the scientific principles on which the theory of identification of any kind is based.

The work contains 150 most interesting and helpful illustrations; it is dedicated to Sir Edward Richard Henry, of Scotland Yard, London, whose portrait also appears. The frontispiece of the book is a most fascinating foot print (perhaps of a Smith College girl!) showing in one impression the thousands of identifying characteristics in a "Wilder Foot Print."

New York City.

ALBERT S. OSBORN.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE PROBATION COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR 1917. Albany. Pp. 603.

The Report is a well edited volume of 600 pages, the work of Charles L. Chute, Secretary of the Commission, Albany, N. Y. Being written while this country was at war, stress is laid on the part probation officers played in the preventive and protective service to which the war inspired all of us. Probation work was not let down, but was rather stimulated by the war activities.

The Report indicates the great value of a state probation commission, which can take stock of present work done both at home and in other states, and which can standardize, in a great measure, the work throughout the state, stressing needs and shortcomings, offering counsel and assistance to new officers, and offering to all officers light on ever changing problems.

The report of the work of the commission, which covers the first 60 pages, is graphically illustrated by charts, showing from what courts probationers have come, the increase in the use of probation, the increase in the number of salaried probation officers, the charges on which persons put on probation were arraigned and the apparent results of probation. The report points out the decrease in the prison population of New York State, and the deteriorating quality, both mentally and morally of those committed; indicating that the probation system is weeding out the normal and reclaimable type of offender, and is saving him from the stigma of imprisonment.

In addition to the usual report of the work of the commission, the volume contains the report of a committee appointed by the commission to study methods of supervising probationers. The report of this committee is a real contribution to the literature of the subject and is well worth the study of all who are engaged in probation work. This report states the general problem and then gives an analysis of

probation methods in New York State and in other states, together with the conclusions and recommendations of the committee.

The appendix which comprises two-thirds of the volume contains statistics of the commission for the year ending June 30, 1917; the proceedings of the Tenth Annual Conference of Probation Officers of New York State, giving in full the discussions on current probation problems; and a directory of probation officers in New York State.

The report of the commission may well be used as a text-book for probation officers both in New York State and in other states.

Chicago.

JOSEPH L. MOSS.

MANUAL FOR PROBATION OFFICERS IN NEW YORK STATE. Second Edition. Revised, 1918. Prepared by the State Probation Commission, Albany, N. Y. J. B. Lyon Company, Printers. Pp. 343.

On page 137 of this report the statement is made: "Inasmuch as there may be as many kinds of probation as there are courts using probation, the State Probation Commission aims to co-ordinate the probation work of all courts so that each one may benefit from the experiences of others." The Manual for Probation Officers is one method which the State Commission has used to establish a minimum standard of efficiency in all the courts using probation. It is an excellent piece of work. It is impossible to summarize its contents as it is encyclopædic in what it covers. But even though it does cover so much, words are not wasted. Each subject is treated briefly and clearly. It cannot help but have a large influence in standardizing probation work in the Empire State.

The two most practical chapters are those which deal with the duties, powers and methods of probation officers, and procedure during probation, and the one on records, reports, forms, accounts and statistics. The former chapter treats each subject in a concise manner and cites the law covering each point. These citations make the chapter infinitely more valuable to those who use the book. An excellent set of record and report forms are printed in the Manual with the statement that the State Probation Commission will install them free of charge in any court. There could be no better way of establishing a uniform system of forms throughout the state. The Manual is invaluable to New York probation officers and of great service to all others. Similar manuals should be published in every state. The excellence of this book is a strong argument for state probation commissions in states where they do not as yet exist.

Chicago.

JOEL D. HUNTER.

REPORT OF THE MAGISTRATES' COURT, CITY OF NEW YORK. By *Edwin J. Cooley*. 1917-1918. Pp. 106.

This comprehensive report by the chief probation officer, Edwin J. Cooley, contains suggestive material for probation work in all cities. One is impressed by the fact that of the 204,685 persons ar-